

Message Text

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ACTION MED-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 DEAE-00 SNM-02 OPR-02 ABF-01

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P R 070630Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7964

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

UNCLAS SEC 1 OF 2 TEHRAN 6840

M/MED FOR DR. FRANK JOHNSON

KABUL FOR DR. WESTMAAS

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: AMED, IR

SUBJ: COMMUNITY RELATIONS

REF: (A) TEHRAN, 4925, (B) TEHRAN 6360, (C) STATE 153825,
(D) STATE 163487

1. INTRODUCTION: THE COMMUNITY ACTION STEERING COMMITTEE (CASC-REF B) HAS BEEN ABLE TO QUANTIFY SOME ASPECTS OF THE SOCIAL/HEALTH PROBLEMS FACING THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY HERE. ADDITIONAL, DETAILED SURVEYS ARE BEING DEVISED. WHERE STATISTICS FAIL, HOWEVER, IT URGES THAT THE PROBLEM BE VIEWED IN THIS BASIC SENSE: ASSUMING THAT THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN TEHRAN, EST 14,000-16000) OR IRAN (EST 24,000) HAS THE SAME INCIDENCE OF PROBLEMS AS A COMMUNITY OF SAME SIZE AND CHARACTERISTICS IN THE U.S., THIS COMMUNITY, EXCEPT TO THE LIMITED EXTENT THAT THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY HAS AVAILABLE SOME PRE-EVACUATION SERVICES, IS LACKING NOT ONLY IN SUCH SUPPORTIVE FACTORS AS THE EXTENDED FAMILY, BUT IN THE WIDE RANGE OF COMMUNITY, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, MENTAL SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES AVAILABLE IN THE U.S. IT IS THIS RANGE OF "LACKS" THAT THE CASC IS SEEKING TO REDRESS IN PART WITH THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PROPOSED COMMUNITY HEALTH REFERRAL CENTER.

2. THE EMBASSY/CASC APPRECIATES AND IS ENCOURAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S INITIATIVE WITH THE NEW YORK OFFICES

OF AMERICAN FIRMS ACTIVE IN IRAN AND THE RESPONSE TO REF C RECOGNIZES THE NEED TO HAVE INFORMATION FOR THE EFFORT WHICH MAY BE USED PUBLICLY. THE DEPARTMENT WILL APPRECIATE THE SENSITIVE NATURE OF ASPECTS OF THE DISPOSITIONS OF CASES SURROUNDING THE SPECIFIC DRUG INCIDENTS AT THE TEHRAN AMERICAN SCHOOL(TAS), SUBJECT OF REF A. THUS, EMBASSY IS PLEASED TO NOTE FROM REF D THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL CONSULT TAS COUNSELOR TAMBIEN ALBRIGHT IN PREPARATION FOR THE JULY 9 NEW YORK MEETING. ADDITIONALLY, RESULTS FROM A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CASC AS WELL AS INFORMATION COLLECTED FROM THE U.S. ARMY HOSPITAL AND THE AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB ARE PROVIDED BELOW, GEARED TO PROBLEM ISSUES REPORTED PARA. 3, REF B.

A. CASC SURVEY: A SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED OF SIX PRINCIPAL AMERICAN FIRMS AND THE U.S. MILITARY WHICH COVERED 4,220 EMPLOYEES, WITH AN ESTIMATED AVERAGE 2.5 DEPENDENTS OR POPULATION OF 17,125(ROUNDED), THIS IS A 61.6 PERCENT SAMPLE OF THE CURRENTLY ESTIMATED 24,000 AMERICAN POPULATION IN IRAN. ALTHOUGH TEHRAN WOULD ACCOUNT FOR SOME 60 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL, IT IS NOT PRACTICAL TO SEPARATE TEHRAN FROM THE PROVINCES IN SUCH A SURVEY; WE MUST FOR NOW ASSUME A SIMILARITY OF PROBLEMS OF AMERICANS WHETHER IN TEHRAN OR IN, ISFAHAN, SHIRAZ, AHWAZ. THE ANSWERS TO THREE PRINCIPAL QUESTIONS WERE WEIGHTED ACCORDING TO THE EMPLOYEE LEVEL OF THE FIRM WITHIN THE AGGREGATE 4,220 EMPLOYEES AND THE AVERAGE EXTRAPOLATED FOR THE TOTAL AMERICAN COMMUNITY ESTIMATED AS HAVING 6,850 EMPLOYEES AND A TOTAL 24,000 POPULATION, AS FOLLOWS:

1) PREMATURE CONTRACT TERMINATIONS: 5.7 PERCENT INCIDENCE OF 390 FAMILIES A YEAR. (THE NET UNCLASSIFIED

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COST OF THIS FACTOR IS DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH, NET THAT IS OF COSTS INCURRED BY THE EVENTUAL DEPARTURE AND REPLACEMENT OF AN EMPLOYEE AND FAMILY. A MAJOR FIRM CALCULATES THE COST OF RETURNING AND REPLACING A FAMILY IN TEHRAN AT \$50,000, BUT SINCE THIS WOULD OCCUR IN ANY CASE, OUR BEST ESTIMATE OF THE COST OF A PREMATURE DEPARTURE/REPLACEMENT IS \$10,000 WHICH FOR THE POPULATION WOULD REPRESENT AN ANNUAL COST OF \$3.9 MILLION.)

2) MAJOR INCIDENTS(DEFINED AS DRUG, ALCOHOL INDUCED, BRAWLS, CHILD ABUSE, RUN-AWAYS, ETC): PER

YEAR AS A PERCENTAGE OF NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:
12 PERCENT OR 822 FAMILIES A YEAR. COSTS ARE
DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE BUT THERE IS A CLOSE
CORRELATION BETWEEN "MAJOR INCIDENTS" AND PREMATURE
DEPARTURES ACCORDING TO SOME OF THE SAMPLED
EMPLOYERS.

3) NUMBER OF SPLIT FAMILIES PER YEAR(ONE OR
MORE DEPENDENTS LEAVING THE COUNTRY) AS A PERCENTAGE
OF NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES: 6 PERCENT OR AN OCCURRENCE
AFFECTING 411 FAMILY UNITS. THIS FACTOR WAS NOT
EASILY MONETIZED AND THE DIRECT COSTS ARE OFTEN
BORNE BY THE EMPLOYEE. BUT INDIRECT COSTS, FINANCIAL
AND HUMAN, INCUR TO EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE. THE
HIGHER THE INCIDENCE OF FAMILY SPLITS THE HIGHER
IS SEEN THE LIKELIHOOD FOR FUTURE FAMILY PROBLEMS
AND ADVERSE EFFECTS ON THE EMPLOYEE WHICH SHOW UP
IN HIS PRODUCTIVITY AS WELL AS JOB SATISFACTION.
A MAJOR FIRM SAID THIS FACTOR IS "HIGH AND GROWING"
AND THE PRIMARY CAUSE IS THE RISING COST OF
HOUSING IN IRAN(EMPLOYEES OFTEN SEND THEIR
DEPENDENTS BACK TO THE U.S. AND SHARE
HOUSING COSTS WITH COLLEAGUES).

B. DRUG ABUSE: AS PER REFS B AND D(PAR. 6.),
TAS COUNSELOR ALBRIGHT CAN PROVIDE INFORMATION
ON THIS ISSUE.

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C. ALCOHOL: THE CASC WAS INFORMED THAT SOME
90 PERCENT OF THE STUDENTS OF TAS HIGH SCHOOL
HAD EXPERIMENTED WITH OR REGULARLY CONSUME
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, WITH A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER
CONSIDERED HEAVY USERS(CASC IS ALSO UNDER THE
IMPRESSION THAT THIS RATE IS NOT TOO DISSIMILAR
TO RATES IN U.S. SCHOOLS). OF SUBSTANTIATING
VALUE, THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM TEST GEARED
FOR ADULTS(26 QUESTIONS) WAS GIVEN TO A RED CROSS CLASS
OF 14-YEAR OLDS(TAS STUDENTS): THE RESULTS INDICATED
THAT IF THEY WERE ADULTS HALF OF GROUP NUMBERING 14
SHOULD BE SEEKING PROFESSIONAL HELP.

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7965

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 TEHRAN 6840

M/MED FOR DR. FRANK JOHNSON

KABUL FOR DR. WESTMAAS

D. CHILD ABUSE: TAS COUNSELORS REPORTED TO THE CASC A PHYSICAL CHILD ABUSE CASELOAD OF 27 IN A SEVEN MONTH PERIOD. VIRTUALLY ALL CASES OF PHYSICAL ABUSE INVOLVED EMOTIONAL ABUSE; HOWEVER, INCIDENCE OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE IS UNKNOWN BUT ASSUMED HIGHER. WITHIN THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY (U.S. ARMY HOSPITAL) THERE WERE 10 CASES OF CHILD ABUSE AND THREE OF CHILD NEGLECT IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1976; EIGHT OVERLAP THOS OF THE TAS AND WERE REFERRED BY TAS COUNSELORS).

E. TEENAGE PREGNANCIES: THE U.S. ARMY HOSPITAL IS EXPERIENCING A MONTHLY CASELOAD OF 10 UNWANTED, OUT-OF-WEDLOCK PREGNANCIES. THESE ARE PATIENTS ELIGIBLE FOR U.S. ARMY FACILITY. EXTRAPOLATED FOR THE U.S. POPULATION, THIS 0.224 RATE WOULD INDICATE AN ANNUAL INCIDENCE OF 586 IN THE AMERICAN POPULATION.

F. ADOPTIONS: PRECISE DATA ARE UNAVAILABLE, BUT THE RESPONSIBLE COUNSULAR OFFICER REPORTS AN AVERAGE OF THREE CASES A WEEK. THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEM IS SEEN IN THE COMBINATION OF THE GROWING UNCLASSIFIED

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ADOPTION PRACTICE, REFLECTING THE AVAILABILITY OF CHILDREN FOR ADOPTION, WITH THE ABSENCE OF COUNSELLING AND SCREENING SERVICES NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH ADOPTION IN THE U.S. U.S. ARMY HOSPITAL SOCIAL WORKER STATES THAT OF TEN MILITARY ADOPTION CASES, EIGHT INVOLVED SERIOUS PROBLEMS WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN MET WITH SERVICES USUALLY AVAILABLE IN THE U.S. BUT NOT HERE.

G. FAMILY COUNSELLING(MARRIAGE, YOUTH, ETC.): NOT QUANTIFIABLE, BUT INDICATIVE OF THE NEED ARE THE MAY ACTIVITY FUGURES OF THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED SOCIAL WORK/HYGIENE CONSULTATION SERVICE UNDER

THE U.S. ARMY HOSPITAL: 73 PATIENTS SEEN AND 390 RELATED CONTACTS MADE. THE MEDICAL SURVEY REPORT BY DR. FRANK JOHNSON, ET AL(SEPTEMBER 29 TO OCTOBER 15,1973) IS STILL DESCRIPTIVELY ACCURATE, BUT THE DIMENSIONS OF THE PROBLEMS HAVE GROWN WITH THE SIZE OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY. THE AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB REPRESENTATIVE ON THE CASC SUMMARIZED THE CAUSES OF THE DISTAFF PROBLEM IN TEHRAN AS MIS-INFORMATION BEFORE ARRIVAL, RESULTING IN BEING ILL-PREPARED FOR CHANGE; HIGH LOCAL LIVING COSTS: LACK OF MAIDS/BABYSITTERS; FEAR OF GETTING OUR(CULTURE SHOCK); TRANSPORTATION(MANY EMPLOYERS FORBID, OTHERS DISCOURAGE, USE OF PRIVATELY-OWNED VEHICLES AND LACK OF FARSI INHIBITS USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT); TIERED FRUSTRATION (HUSBAND/WIFE/CHILDREN); LACK OF RECREATION(ENGLISH MOVIES ARE FEW AND SHOWN LATE, AND RECREATION FACILITIES ARE LIMITED, PRIVATE AND GENERALLY BEYOND THE MEANS OF ALL BUT THE HIGHEST INCOME) NEW FACTOR IS CHANGE IN POPULATION PROFILE IN FAVOR OF A YOUNGER, FIRST-TIME-ABROAD, AMERICAN.

3. FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION, THE FOLLOWING EMPLOYERS PARTICIPATED IN THE CASC SURVEY: BELL HELICOPTER INTERNATIONAL, AMERICAN BELL INTERNATIONAL, GTE INTERNATIONAL, LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT, GRUMMAN IRAN, LOGISTICS SUPPORT CORPORATION(LSC-SUBSIDIARY OF BOEING), AND THE U.S. MILITARY(1,400 EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING AMERICAN CIVILIAN). U.S. EMPLOYERS, ADDITIONAL TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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AFOREMENTIONED, WHICH WERE REPRESENTED AT JUNE 27 CASC/DR. WESTMAAS LUNCHEON: WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC, RAYTHEON EDUCATION SYSTEMS, FLUOR IRAN/EURASIA, EDSELECTRONIC DATA SYSTEMS) WORLD CORPORATION, CONTROL DATA CORP. AND THE TEHRAN AMERICAN SCHOOL (SUPERINTENDENT). ALONG WITH INFORMATION CONCERNING THE RESULTS OF THE JULY 9 MEETING IN NEW YORK, THE EMBASSY/CASC WOULD APPRECIATE A LISTING OF THE FIRMS WHICH PARTICIPATED.
HELMS

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